

THE RECOVERY ACT: NEW MEXICO CLOSE UP

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. Operated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. Territories, Weatherization funds are used to accomplish the mission of WAP, *“To reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.”*

Over 900 local agencies apply energy-efficiency measures to low-income homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. The resulting energy savings help decrease energy costs for the families and our country's dependence on foreign oil.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, WAP received \$5 billion of funding to expand the current Program and achieve the purposes set forth in the Act. As a result, here is how Weatherization *Works* for New Mexico and America!

What does the Recovery Act mean to New Mexico?

The Recovery Act will stimulate the state and local economies quickly. New Mexico is slated to receive over \$3.4 billion to invest in public safety, education, infrastructure, healthcare, and energy projects and will save or create jobs while also helping to protect essential state services that New Mexicans rely upon every day.

The **New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority's (MFA) Energy\$mart Program** directly benefits from the Recovery Act. MFA's Weatherization Recovery Act budget is over \$26 million. These additional funds will make a substantial impact for the state and local weatherization program providers. To date, the New Mexico weatherization program:

- has created 34 jobs.¹
- has retained 56 existing jobs.¹
- will hire 95 new sub-contractors.¹
- will retain 24 current sub-contractors.¹
- has weatherized almost 370 homes (through December 2009).¹

NEW MEXICO WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	State Allocation	Homes Weatherized
DOE Weatherization Recovery Act Funding ²	\$26.89 million	2,788**
Program Year 2009	\$3.22 million	480*
Program Year 2008	\$1.90 million	631
Program Year 2007	\$1.71 million	707

WEATHERIZATION FACTS

Average annual energy cost savings per household ³	\$350
Average space heating savings	32%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested ³	\$1.67

How is the Recovery Act Stimulating New Mexico's Economy?

The Recovery Act has made a substantial impact in New Mexico. With the funding increase, MFA was able to purchase over \$350,000 of equipment and tools, such as generators, blower doors, insulation blowers, infrared cameras, software, phone systems and eight vehicles, for their four (4) local service providers to have the necessary resources to meet their new weatherization production goals.

¹Data provided by New Mexico Program Update and Fact Sheet, January 2010.

²The Recovery Act Funding covers three years, from April 2009 through March 2012.

³ORNL/CON-493, ORNL/CON-484, EIA Annual Energy Outlook for 2009, EIA Short Term Energy Outlook (Feb. 2008).

** Projected Number of Homes Weatherized. This projection is based on an increased allowable expenditure per home than in previous years.

* Projected Number of Homes Weatherized.



Congressman Martin Heinrich speaks, along with Lt. Governor Diane Denish, during a Weatherization Event in Albuquerque in November 2009.

(front, left to right) MFA Executive Director Jay Czar; Lt. Gov. Diane Denish; Congressman Martin Heinrich. (back, left to right) Central New Mexico Housing Corporation employees; homeowner Juan DeLeon and family (in front).

Opportunity Knocks

There is a tremendous need for more weatherization throughout New Mexico. It is estimated that only approximately 5 percent of eligible families have taken advantage of the program. Much of New Mexico's housing stock is very old — decades-old adobes that were built with no insulation, leaky doors and windows.

Since 2002, MFA has weatherized over 10,800 homes. Before the Recovery Act, MFA would weatherize about 1,800 homes each year. The added Recovery Act funding provides the tremendous opportunity to reach an additional 3,000 homes over the next three years and help that many more families and people in need.

What's Next for New Mexico

A major initiative for MFA over the next year is to develop a standardized training curriculum system for the local weatherization workforce. The system will build on DOE's National WAP Curriculum and will include:

- Statewide technical standards that describe the weatherization process and how measures are to be performed within New Mexico.
- An online curriculum that details the three regional climate zones in New Mexico.

Within this training initiative, MFA is planning to partner with local community colleges to create classroom training. Some of the colleges currently have programs and certifications that focus on energy efficiency and weatherization, which the new weatherization curriculum will dovetail with easily. The new training will help meet the growing demand for "green" workforce training and provide the resources needed to educate new weatherization crew members and local service providers.

MFA is also developing a mobile weatherization training unit. On location training is critical in New Mexico because travel to and from the state's many rural areas is difficult and expensive. In addition, MFA will continue to train their providers to use the redesigned reporting system to track weatherization and energy efficient measures and project energy savings more efficiently.

Weatherization Works

Weatherization provides long term solutions to energy and non-energy issues for low-income households. Challenges such as unsafe combustion systems or mold and moisture problems are addressed during the weatherization process when

necessary. Addressing both energy and non-energy issues not only improves the efficiency of the home, but the overall quality of life for the residents.

For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization currently returns \$2.73 to the household and society:

- \$1.67 in reduced energy bills
- \$1.06 in non-energy benefits
 - increased local employment
 - improved housing quality
 - better health and safety

Weatherization also reduces national energy consumption and curbs the demand for imported oil. Annually, Weatherization decreases the national consumption by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil.

Weatherization truly works for New Mexico and America!



For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, visit:

www.housingnm.org/nm-energymart
www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization
www.waptac.org

EERE Information Center
 1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter

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